



00-108

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Herman Horn, Chief, Bureau of Regional/Local Health Operations  
Regional Directors  
Directors, Local Health Departments  
Directors, Independent WIC Local Agencies

**FROM:** Barbara Keir, Director  
Division of Public Health Nutrition and Education  
Bureau of Nutrition Services *B. Keir*

**DATE:** October 1, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Guidelines on Policy **CS: 04.5 Determination of Hematocrit/Hemoglobin**  
Regarding the waiving of blood work

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USDA has established new blood work requirement rules that define circumstances when a blood test must be performed. The new rules state that all infants should have a blood test for anemia completed between 9 - 12 months and again between 15 - 18 months. Based on this requirement, we will no longer waive the blood test for children under two years of age as permitted in policy CS: 04.5 Determination of Hematocrit/Hemoglobin. All infants and children being certified at ages 6 months to 24 months will have a blood test completed. Additionally, all children will have a blood test performed at least every 12 months.

For those children, two to five years old, an additional risk condition has been identified that can be used to waive the blood work requirement. We are now adding Risk Code 424 - Inadequate Vitamin/Mineral Supplementation (for children this means inadequate fluoride intake) as an additional risk condition that could be used along with normal blood values to qualify for waiving blood work. Up to this point, the risk condition 422 - Inadequate Diet has been the only risk condition that may be used along with normal blood levels to qualify for waiving the blood work at a subsequent certification.

Local agencies are responsible for ensuring that a blood test is performed on all children (ages 2 to 5) at least once every 12 months. In addition, when entering the child's subcertification data into the computer, we no longer want the previous certification's blood value used. Please use the same documentation that is used for medical or religious reasons as noted below.

To waive the blood work for any other reason you must be in compliance with policy CS: 04.5. Documentation of waiving the blood test due to medical conditions or religious beliefs should be noted in the participant record and entered into the WIN system as:

**Hemoglobin 24**

**Hematocrit 74**

Guidelines on Policy CS: **04.5 Determination of Hematocrit/Hemoglobin**

In summary, the following will be the new guideline to replace the wording in CS: 04.5 VIA.2: Children between 2 and 5 years old who, at the previous certification had a hemoglobin/hematocrit test with normal results and whose only risk conditions were Risk Code 422 and/or 424 may have the blood work requirement waived. We will implement these changes November 1, 2000.

As announced to all local agencies in our 9/15/00 memo entitled "Request for Comments on Proposed Change to WIC Policy Process," the program is working on satisfying the TDH requirements for rule making and policy adoption. Until this process is completed, we are not able to amend the WIC Policy and Procedure Manual. Over the next few months we will issue any mandated changes to you, including the changes described in this memo, via the numbered memo process. For those local agencies who may be due for a scheduled review by the state agency during this time, we will not issue any findings for deficiencies related to the policy changes we issue by memo.

If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please contact Paula Kanter, Clinical Nutrition Specialist, (512) 458-7111 extension 3528 or Matt Harrington, Clinical Nutrition Specialist, (512) 458-7111 extension 3503.